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# Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 2 October 1981 \$3/yr.

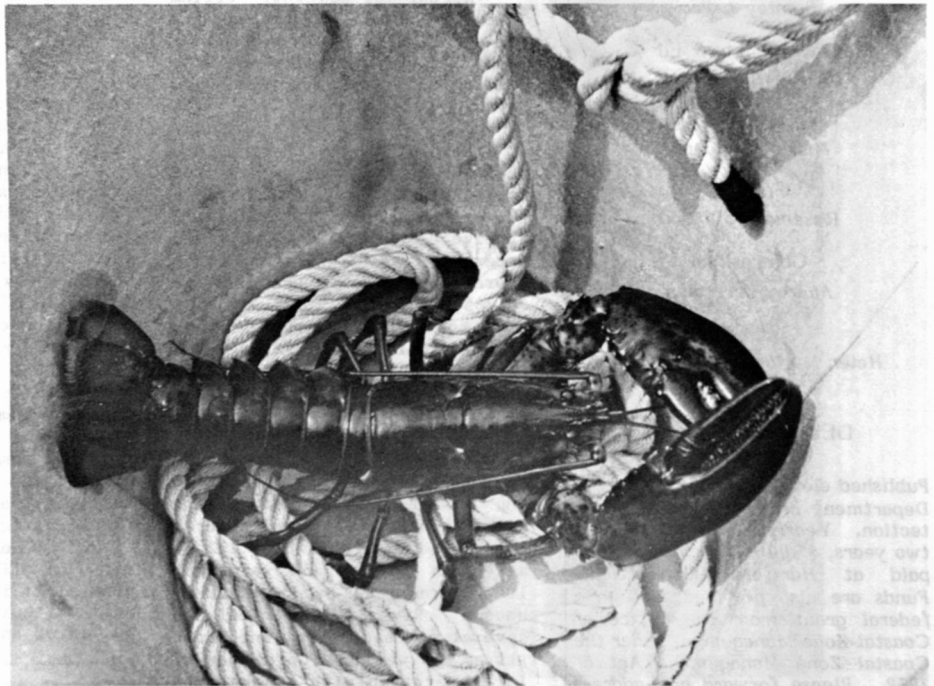
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Making the pinch...

# Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 2

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Cover Photo: Audrey Handelman

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Al Couture, Dept. of Transportation

## Governor accepts 282 acre gift

August 18, Governor William O'Neill formally accepted the deed to a 282.34 acre tract of land in Vernon from Maxwell M. Belding of West Hartford, at left.

Belding is giving the State the tract, just south of Interstate 86 in Vernon, over a 10-year period. The DEP will receive one-tenth undivided interest each year. Total appraised value of the land is \$1,285,500. The State will be able to as much as double this value by using the gift as match for federal game management grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Approximately 60 acres of the parcel, which will be called the Belding Wildlife Management Area, is level agricultural land. The remaining 222.34 acres is forest and woodland. It is traversed by the Tankerhoosen River and includes several miles of excellent trout stream as well as three ponds. In cooperation with Belden, the DEP is preparing a game management plan for the area which is one of the largest undeveloped tracts left in Vernon.

The deed was signed at a ceremony which took place at the property on June 17. At the August 18 meeting which included

DEP Commissioner Stanley J. Pac, at right, Governor O'Neill presented Belding with a copy of the beautifully illustrated "Connecticut: A Scenic Discovery."

## Donation opens tower

To make it possible for the public to enjoy the fall foliage spectacle from a vantage point 950 feet above sea level, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company of Bloomfield donated \$1,000 to help the State Parks and Recreation Office reopen the 165-foot Heublein Tower in Talcott Mountain State Park on Labor Day and the following five Saturdays and eight Sundays through November 1. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Take State 185 to Summit Drive near the Simsbury-Bloomfield line. Walk a mile and a quarter to the Tower.

## Order your seedlings now!

Order forms are now available for purchase of tree and shrub seedlings by landowners at cost from the State Forestry Unit's State Forest Nursery.

Seedlings are offered under three programs: the "Buffer Bunch" (20 tree and 30 shrub seedlings for wildlife habitat improvement); the "Wildlife and Conservation Seedling Packet" (75 tree and 75 shrub seedlings for conservation or erosion control purposes); and "Forest Planting Stock" in multiples of 250 for landowners who are establishing forest plantations or commercial Christmas tree plantings.

For complete information, prices, and order forms, write or call the State Forester's office (State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06115; 566-5348) or any DEP regional office. Specify program(s) of interest. Many species sell out quickly, so orders should be placed as early as possible.

"The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is an equal opportunity agency that provides services, facilities and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, physical handicap, national origin, ancestry, marital status or political beliefs."

The small, unmarked marine patrol boat slides quietly away from the dock at Noank. Within minutes, the dense, white fog has obscured the dock.

It is 8:00 a.m. Conservation Officer Myron Van Ness maneuvers the powerboat carefully and skillfully through the fog. He and Officer John Overturf know the area around Fisher's Island Sound very well; they have been patrolling these waters for over 20 years.

Mason's Island slips past unseen, and about a half hour after leaving Noank we approach the breakwater at Stonington. We drop Overturf there on the rocks, armed with a high-powered scope. Van Ness pulls the boat away from the breakwater and drops anchor just out of sight, though not out of earshot.

"Fog is a great cover," Van Ness explains, "for us as well as anyone interested in doing anything illegal. We'll just sit here--it takes patience--and keep our ears and eyes open. If I hear a boat approaching, I'll go below so I can't be seen and have a look at them through my binoculars. You stay visible with your camera. You'll be good cover for us."

The ocean is unusually still and calm, Van Ness tells me. It is very quiet, except for the occasional whine of a motor. At about 9:15, Van Ness spots a small boat approaching the breakwater. He tries to follow its movement with the binoculars, but it disappears into the fog.

"Poachers can have a heyday in the fog," he says, "because it's so hard to see what's going on." He hopes that Overturf, from the breakwater, has not lost sight of the small boat.

He has not; at about ten o'clock, we hear a call from the breakwater: "Conservation Officer! Stand by for inspection!" This is the signal to any boater that he must stop and await inspection. If anyone attempts to escape after being told to stand by, he faces a fine of \$50 to \$500 and/or up to 90 days in jail.

# "Conservation Officer! Stand by for inspection"

*By Audrey Handelman, Environmental Intern*



*Audrey Handelman photos*

*Conservation Officer John Overturf prepares to board boat after ordering it to "stand by for inspection."*

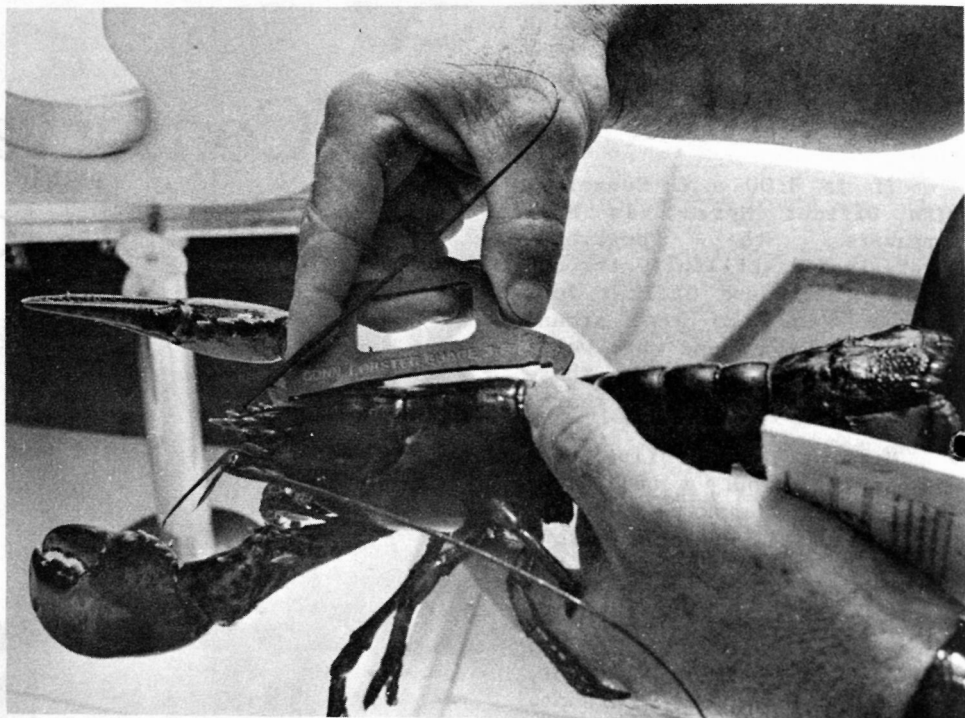
These suspects remain where they are, however, as Van Ness lifts anchor and pulls up alongside them. There are two young men in the boat. Van Ness confiscates a cooler in which they have stowed a lobster, recently taken from a pot, and takes the key to their boat to be certain they don't flee while he picks up Overturf from the breakwater.

"I sure felt silly," Overturf says, "Shouting at the top of my lungs--I wasn't even sure you'd hear me." Usually, the officers communicate by two-way radio. Today, one of the radios was not working, making co-ordination of efforts a bit more difficult. "I saw them sneak in," Overturf continues, "and they started pulling up everyone's pots. I only let them get away with pulling up three." Lobster pots are marked by buoys of a different color for each lobsterman, and are also marked with each lobsterman's license number.

The two men are booked on several charges: possession of an undersized lobster; stealing a lobster; and three counts of molesting a lobster pot--it is illegal to tamper in any way with a pot for which you have not obtained a license. As conservation officers, Overturf and Van Ness are authorized to search, without a warrant, any boat or any container on a boat which they suspect may contain illegally obtained fish or lobsters, and may arrest violators of fish and game laws.

"It's tough to make this type of arrest," Van Ness comments, after the men have been written up and issued summonses to appear in court. "But it's still easier to make an on-site arrest than to get a warrant. You don't want to take the chance of letting the counts accumulate--you want to get them while you can. If they get away, even if you have a warrant it means chasing them all over the place until you catch up with them.

"The prosecutor in this district is very sympathetic. He's been out in a boat, he knows how hard these kinds of



arrests are. But we still have to remind him now and then. Public relations is a very important aspect of a conservation officer's job, not only with prosecutors but with the public. The public doesn't realize that we bring in much more in fines from these kinds of crimes than comes in from crimes they consider more serious."

By 11:30, the fog still has not lifted. "That's fine for our business," Van Ness says. We drop anchor again and resume waiting. I ask if there are many problems with lobster poaching.

"There certainly are," Van Ness tells me. "There are many reasons for the problems. With the little guys, it may be a case of...say they were out fishing all day and didn't catch anything, so before they go home they decide it would be nice to pull up a couple of traps and get some lobsters for dinner.

"But those aren't the people you really have to worry about, it's the professionals, the big guys. They pull in 200 or 300 undersized lobsters which they sell illegally. Of course they make a terrific profit, because nobody knows they're doing it and they don't pay any income tax on it.

"Commercial fishing in general is a cut-throat business, whether for fish or for lobster. I've seen commercial fishermen refuse to sell to a dealer here in Stonington; instead they go to someplace in Rhode Island because they can get a penny more per pound. It doesn't sound like much until you consider they've got sometimes more than 10,000 pounds in one catch.

"Sometimes we get a complaint from a lobsterman that another lobsterman is stealing his catch or tampering with his traps. Then another one will accuse the second one of the same thing, and a fourth will accuse the third, and so on, and you end up back where you started from, with the blame falling on the first guy. But the temptation to pull up the other guy's pots, just to see what he's doing, what kind of bait he's using, how it's going, is very strong."

By noon, most of the fog has burned off, and more and more boats appear around us. I realize how close to the breakwater we've been all morning, hardly more than a stone's throw away. We pick up Overturf again and head away from the breakwater.

Overturf mans the boat as we speed away from our morning's mooring. We pass Napatree Point, a thin strip of sand. Van Ness scans the surrounding waters through binoculars. "You get to be able to tell almost at a glance which ones you have to watch out for," he says. "You can sort of sense the trouble-makers." We pursue two boats and stop them with orders to "stand by for inspection," but they turn out to be legitimate: a licensed sport fisherman and a student from the University of Connecticut's Marine Research Laboratory dragging for plankton.

At 1:30 we dock at Stonington for a coffee break and a routine inspection of the boats anchored there. The officers check to see that all the boats are properly licensed and that they are observing all regulations. Conservation officers are also responsible



*Conservation Officer Myron Van Ness and Conservation Officer John Overturf head their marine patrol boat toward shore.*



*Commercial fishing boats at Stonington got routine inspections to see that they were properly licensed and observing all regulations.*

for inspecting commercial fishing boats under the National Marine Fisheries law, which means they may check catch records and other data.

Overturf and Van Ness are two of eight marine conservation officers, including a sergeant and a supervisor, who regularly patrol Connecticut's shoreline for DEP's 47-man Law Enforcement Unit.

Both Overturf and Van Ness like their jobs as conservation officers; "It gives you a chance to get out, it's not like sitting in one place all day," says Van Ness. "And we pretty much set our own hours."

That "pretty much," I discovered, was the giveaway.

"Would you like to join us again tomorrow?" Overturf asks when we arrive back at Noank at about three o'clock.

"That depends when you're leaving," I tell him.

"Oh, about four, four-thirty. On Saturdays, we have to get out there early if we want to catch anyone." ■

If the canines among your acquaintances are rowdy and undisciplined . . . if you'd like to watch some dedicated professionals at work . . . if you've been hunting without a dog . . . or if you're looking for something a little out-of-the-ordinary in sporting events . . . consider a field dog trial.

Be warned that dog trials are not exactly one of your standard spectator sports. It's not always easy to see the action, for one thing. For another, the sport is specialized, and if keeping an eye on the contestants is difficult, figuring out how they're doing can be even more so.

What, if you've never seen a dog trial, should you be looking for? And where do you look?

Truman Cowles, who is chairman of the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area Management Committee and active in dog trial circles in the State, along the East Coast, and internationally, estimates that there are probably 75 or 80 field trial clubs in Connecticut. This includes the beagle clubs and fox hound clubs and coon hound clubs and "breed" clubs -- Brittany spaniels and German shorthaired pointers and Vizslas and Weimaraners and the like. Among the groups, Cowles notes, there are about 15 pointer and setter field trial clubs; pointers and setters are, he says, particularly specialized. While "breed" clubs may mix field and bench show interests, field-trial oriented pointer and setter owners "usually don't patronize bench shows" and vice versa.

Across the country, Cowles says, there are about 800 field trial clubs. Six-hundred of these belong to the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America (AFTCA), which includes 12 U.S. regions, two Canadian regions, and Japan.

But what are field trials all about?

Cowles explains that while a weekend of summer fun trials

## Field dog trials take style, looks, speed, stamina



Florence Harwarth of Manchester and judge Jack Page show "Best in Show," "Guard Rail," who belongs to Gene Casale of Glastonbury.

at Flaherty Field Trial Area had handlers on foot and trials lasting only 10 to 15 minutes, at AFTCA licensed trials heats last 30 minutes or more, and championship trials are at least an hour long. Dogs are judged, among other things, on their stamina. (You don't, after all, want to have to sling your pooped 50-pound hunting companion over your shoulder and haul him home out of the woods.) Judges, who follow the action on horseback as do handlers at regulation meets, also consider the dog's speed; its range -- or how well the dog covers an area; and its "intelligence" -- does the dog, for instance, run at random around in the open or does he search likely game areas?

Experience plays a part. So dogs compete as puppies (dogs

born since the first of the previous year, or up to 18 months old); "derbies" (born since the first of the year before last or up to 30 months); or adults. Entry in championship meets requires a previous qualifying win.

A dog is also watched for "style": "How he walks. How he carries himself. Like people," Cowles says, "some have it and some don't." All this is not only for show. A high head gets pluses because it means the dog can smell game that is further away. The tail held high helps the handler or hunter see the dog. Even sheer looks play a part. White dogs, Cowles says, tend to be preferred because they're easiest to see in the field.

Some of the criteria are obvious -- the ability to find

game, for example. But a canine competitor is also judged in report-card-like categories like "comportment" in pointing birds; "manners"; "staunchness" -- "Does he maintain his point and stay in place until the handler flushes the bird?"; and "steadiness" through shot and recovery.

This kind of behavior does not just happen. How do you train champions? The inclination to point is instinctive, Cowles points out; notice, he says, your cat when something arouses its interest, and you may see a presentable, if brief, point. With bird dogs, serious training starts after the dog begins naturally to point at scents at a year or so of age. "Then," Cowles says, "you do everything to encourage the behavior . . . though at first dogs won't stay but break and try to flush the bird themselves."

To produce a successful field trial dog, handlers have developed a large and creative repertory of training practices and devices -- from things as simple as a long rope to electronic release boxes which "launch" the bird at the proper moment.

Field dog competition is not a sport where a would-be participant can equip himself in one trip to the local sporting goods store and jump right in. Requirements, right off, include a properly trained dog, some ability to handle it (or a handler), a suitable horse . . . more generally, some money, some time, and some commitment.

The horse, Cowles says, is preferably a smooth-gaited Tennessee walking horse -- for the handler's sake. About two-thirds of Connecticut's participants, he says, have their own stabling facilities -- Cowles, for example, has arrangements with relatives and through his club, the Barbar Hill Field Trial Club, for pasturing and stabling.

For serious competition, the critical requirement is, of course, the dog. Just any dog won't do. Great bird dogs are born as well as made. Talent

## Fun Field Weekend

Last June, with fun for both participants and spectators in mind, as well as to raise funds for grounds improvements at the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, the Flaherty Field Area Management Committee, in cooperation with DEP's Wildlife Unit, held its first "Fun Field Weekend." Special attractions included an informal bench show, which gave spectators a chance to admire while offering opportunities for debut appearances in the ring by a number of dogs and handlers.

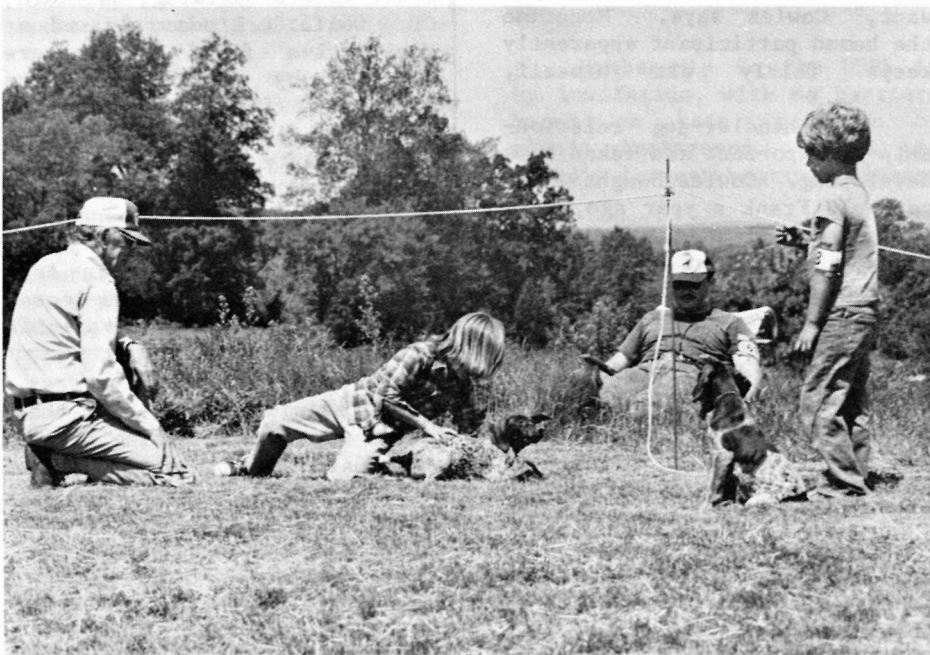
For owners and handlers there were clinics by field training experts and obedience training specialists. More in line with the usual field dog trial, the weekend also featured 10 to 15 minute "fun" trials for all breeds, in which some 86 dogs of six breeds competed. Ribbons were awarded to bench show and field trial winners of each breed as well as to the "Best in Show." Winners also took home five pound bags of dog food.

definitely runs in families. As an example, Cowles points to the summer Fun Field Day's overall "Best in Show." A frequent



Summer "Fun Field Weekend" offered a bench show for a change of pace.

prize winner, Guard Rail, a pointer who's known to his friends as "Jack" and is owned by Gene Casale of Glastonbury, is an uncle to Cowles' dog -- whose name is Dynastic, but who answers to "Frank." Cowles mentions, modestly, that Frank is the pooch "you could call the hottest dog on the circuit" after a last spring string of a wins and places, including a New Jersey regional championship.



Bench show offered a chance for first appearances by both pups and some young handlers. Jack Page of Huntington did the judging.

Even coming from a good family does not guarantee a dog's success in this sport, however. Not every pointer or setter has the talent, Cowles says. He no longer buys dogs as puppies after, he says, going through a three-year period in which he had ten, none of whom made the grade as competitors. "Some are too shy. Some are too slow. Some have no style. Or they lack initiative. 'They just ain't got it.'" He adds, "Sometimes you get a dog who's got looks and speed and style but no common sense. Like a beautiful girl who can't fry an egg."

Serious competition takes up some time and makes some demands on the trainer as well as the dog. During fall, winter and spring Cowles trains with, or competes with, Frank every day. In the summer Frank loafs, in his neat kennel, because Cowles thinks dogs tend to "burn out" in uninterrupted, year around competition.

When he first goes out in the field, Cowles says, a "bird dog in training" probably trails a 20 to 25-foot check cord. When he points, his handler rides up, jumps off the horse, grabs the rope, and works himself up to beside the dog. "There you try to instill confidence, and let him know that this is what you want," Cowles says. Meantime the human participant apparently keeps fairly fit himself.

The handler-dog relationship is important and takes some developing. Cowles bought four-year-old Frank a year ago, when he had already had a few wins, and the pair spent a few months getting "acclimated" to each other before Frank hit his stride and his spring streak of successes. Some professional trainers, Cowles says, train and compete whole strings of dogs and thus may not have the time to give each one enough attention.

A pointer or setter puppy may cost you \$100 to \$300. Adult champions can command \$8,000, \$10,000, even \$25,000. Cowles figures campaigning costs -- including travel, entry fees, feed, and horse expenses



Truman Cowles poses his pointer, "Dynastic"--"Frank" to his friends--at bench show which was a feature of last summer's Fun Field Weekend.

## Trials

At Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, non-shooting bird dog trials are regularly scheduled from September through Thanksgiving (with the area closed to hunting on days trials are scheduled) and again from late March through the end of May. Schedules are available from the DEP Wildlife Unit, Rm. 252, State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06115. Birds released at cooperative field trials are supplied by the DEP and the individual field trial clubs.

Flaherty Field Trial Area is one of four established field trial areas on State-owned and State-controlled lands. Nod Brook Management Area in Avon and Simsbury and a State-leased area in Mansfield are available

for both shooting and non-shooting trials, by permit. Sugarbrook Field Trial Area in Plainfield is available for non-shooting trials only between October 1 and May 15. Most retriever trials are held at Nod Brook. DEP's Wildlife Unit (566-4683) can supply information and schedules as well as lists of field trial clubs.

In 1980, for example, 69 shooting field trial permits were issued by DEP for bird dog, informal, and recognized field dog trials. Participating dogs totaled 2,040; participating persons, 2,923; and spectators, 2,945. And, according to Peter Bogue, DEP's Supervisor of Wildlife Recreation Management, approximately 35 more permits were issued for non-shooting field trials.

run him \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year. Modest enough, considering that in two months last spring Cowles and Guard Rail's owner, Gene Casale, with their dogs, a horse, and a trailer, covered 10,000 miles along the East Coast and in the South, competing in ten trials.

Some owners send dogs to or keep them with professional trainers (Connecticut has four

or five), with whom they may also travel from trial to trial and compete. Such "boarding school" training and campaigning can run owners \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

Most people, Cowles thinks, get involved with dog trials, as he did, via hunting. For Cowles, who is now retired from the pet food business, dog trials have become a major

# U.S. P.S. and Coast Guard Auxiliary demonstrate "lagniappe"

By Frank Glista, DEP Boating Safety Representative

While serving with the U.S. Air Force in Louisiana in the early 1940s I became acquainted with the Creole French word "lagniappe." This word has several meanings, all of which have to do with giving. It can mean a small present given to customers by appreciative suppliers of goods or service, or it may mean something freely given without thought of recompense.

I believe that the latter meaning is particularly applicable to the services rendered by two national organizations which are very active in Connecticut, the U.S. Power Squadron and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Members of these boating organizations have given freely of their time and talents; their willingness to assist boatmen by providing free "Boating Safety and Seamanship" instruction and assisting boatmen on water demonstrate "lagniappe."

As this boating season wanes, it is fitting that the citizens of the State of Connecticut, the Department of Environmental Protection, and all boatmen recognize the contributions that these organizations' members have given so that all can more safely enjoy their time on the water.

What Are the USPS And the USCG Auxiliary?

The United States Power Squadron is a private, non-profit, non-governmental, non-military fraternity of adult male citizens who have a common love of the sea and boating. Nationally, the USPS roster lists 54,000 members affiliated with 450 squadrons in virtually all states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and other distant areas.

As a civic service, and knowing that they can double the pleasure of their activity by sharing their experience, selected well qualified volunteers conduct free basic boating courses for the public. Nationally over two million men, women, and children have completed the USPS basic boating program. In 1980 over 2,000 Connecticut residents were enrolled in its basic courses, making the USPS contribution toward educating the boating public in the principles of safe boating a substantial one.

Squadron members sharpen their skills with advanced educational programs ranging from communications to celestial navigation and from pilotage and dead-reckoning to motor maintenance and repair. They learn from advanced members and by attending lectures, demonstrations and meetings. Power

Squadron members put into practice their new boating skills by participating in predicted log races, navigation competitions, sailing events, rendezvous, and cruises with fellow members.

Another public service program sponsored by the USPS is its co-operative charting program done in conjunction with the National Ocean Survey (NOS), a program of the Department of Commerce. Squadron members carry on an active program of observing changes or errors in facilities or aids to navigation and other conditions shown on marine charts. These discrepancies are reported to NOS and the information used to correct conditions and to update publications and charts. USPS members submitted over 110,000 creditable correction reports to NOS -- a tremendous aid to NOS, the Federal Government, and to all boatmen. This activity results in the saving of federal funds and releases paid manpower to concentrate on other activities.

Within the squadron and between squadrons formal and informal social functions such as dances, dinners, and parties are also arranged for all who wish to share the fellowship traditional with seafaring people.

Membership in the USPS is by invitation, with no barriers based on race, religion or ethnic background. It's the world's largest boating fraternity.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is an all-volunteer civilian arm of the U.S. Coast Guard, with approximately 1,000 members organized in 21 flotillas serving the boating areas of the State of Connecticut. Like the USPS, its qualified instructors offer free courses in Boating Safety and Seamanship. These six to 13-lesson courses cover boat handling, boating laws, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass, marine engines, Marlinspike Seamanship, weather and radio-telephone procedures for the power

boatman with similar courses tailored for the sailor's special needs.

Among the short courses offered to the public by the Auxiliary is a special six-hour "Young Skipper's Course" which, if successfully completed, qualifies a youth under 16 years of age to legally operate a motor boat solo on Connecticut waters.

Qualified examiners from the auxiliary annually conduct free "Courtesy Marine Examinations" of boats. Thousands of boats are inspected in Connecticut. If any deficiencies are noted by the examiner, the owner is advised so that corrective action may be initiated. Boats that meet all federal, State, and a few additional auxiliary requirements are awarded a "Seal of Safety" decal which indicates that, at the time of inspection, the boat was properly equipped for fun and safety at sea. Boats that display the "Seal of Safety" are not normally boarded by law enforcement officials for equipment checks unless observed in an obvious violation of boating laws.

On weekends and holidays, selected members work directly with the USCG manning radio stations, transmitting messages to the Coast Guard and to the auxiliary vessels on courtesy patrols. Under orders from the Coast Guard, members perform rescue and assistance missions and patrol regattas and marine events which adds a large measure of safety on the nation's waterways. The Coast Guard is becoming more and more dependent upon the auxiliary's work which frees Coast Guard personnel to perform more critical duties.

Like the USPS, the Coast Guard Auxiliary also participates in chart up-dating programs in co-operation with the NOS, reporting any changes or deficiencies noted.

On a national scale, the USCG credits the Auxiliary with enrolling 449,000 persons in safe boating education programs,

patrolling 4,000 marine events, assisting over 19,000 boatmen, saving or assisting in the saving of property valued at \$122.5 million, and, most importantly, with saving 1,614 lives during 1980.

Membership in the Auxiliary is open to any U.S. citizen who possesses at least a one-quarter interest in a boat, aircraft, or radio station or who possesses some special qualification useful to the auxiliary.

You can join. The USCG Auxiliary and the USPS are always seeking new members. Membership in either of these organizations offers an opportunity to help fellow boatmen while improving your own boating skills and to enjoy the social functions with others who have an interest in boating. For USPS information and course schedules:

#### District 1

District Commander Charles H. Toifl, 156 Preston Ave., Middletown, CT 06457 (235-6831): Hartford, Manchester, Meriden,

Middletown, Milford, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Saybrook, Waterbury.

#### District II

District Commander James M. Lafferty, 1202 Hedgewood Lane, Schnectady, N.Y. 12309 (518/374-6993): Darien, Greenwich, Housatonic River, Lake Candlewood, Norwalk, Stamford. (Other squadrons are located in N.Y. and Mass.)

For U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary information and course schedules:

#### Division VII

Division Captain Arthur Fusaro, 79 West Hill Circle, Stamford, CT 06902 (325-0271): Stratford, Norwalk, Milford, Stamford, Bridgeport, Greenwich, and Fairfield.

#### Division IX

Division Vice-Captain Paul Fishkin, 3 Woodsea Pl., Waterford, CT (442-9481): Norwich, Mystic, New London, Willimantic.

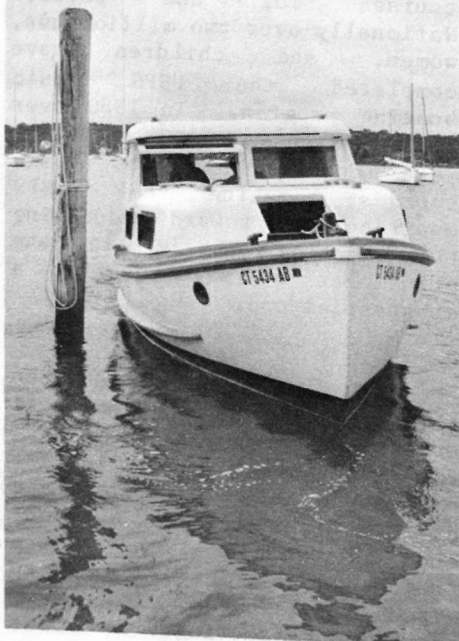
#### DIVISION XVII

Captain John Lischak, 149 Tyler City Rd., Orange, CT (795-3625): Branford, Guilford, West Haven, Prospect, Torrington.

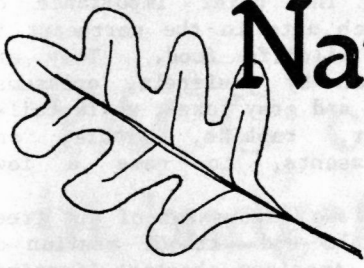
#### DIVISION XXI

Division Captain Frederick A. Smith Jr., 19 Sunset Hills Rd., Simsbury, CT (658-2144): Hartford, Westbrook, New Britain, East Hartford, Windsor Locks-Enfield, Old Saybrook, Clinton.

These organizations and the Department of Environmental Protection invite all who enjoy boating, either as operators or passengers, to enroll in a basic boating course. The Coast Guard estimates that 25,000,000 people participate in some sort of boating activity annually. Yet less than 20 percent have received any instruction. Remember "Safe Boating Is No Accident."



Rosemary Gutbrod photo



# Nature Notes

by Penni Sharp

## "The nuts!"

During October, crisp days and chilly nights remind us that winter is soon to come. The days grow shorter, the leaves on the trees take on their brilliant autumn hues, and crickets and katydids treat us to the last of their nocturnal chirpings. Thus is the month of harvest -- the last chance to gather the fruits of summer gardens.

Most of us are preoccupied with bringing in the cultivated fruits and vegetables over which we have labored throughout the spring and summer months. Perhaps little thought is given to the bountiful wild harvest of Connecticut woods and fields. Yet the fruits produced by our native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are of prime importance to wildlife. Once valued by man as well, many of the seeds and nuts of plants that are now harvested almost exclusively by animals played an important role in the lives of Indians and early settlers. October was known as the nutting month, and nut gathering was a traditional activity for colonial homes.

A number of nut producing trees can be found in the Connecticut woods. Collectively, the fruits of the nut trees are known as "mast," and a year of heavy production is called a good mast year. Our nut trees are interesting, not only for the crops that they bear, but for other qualities as well.

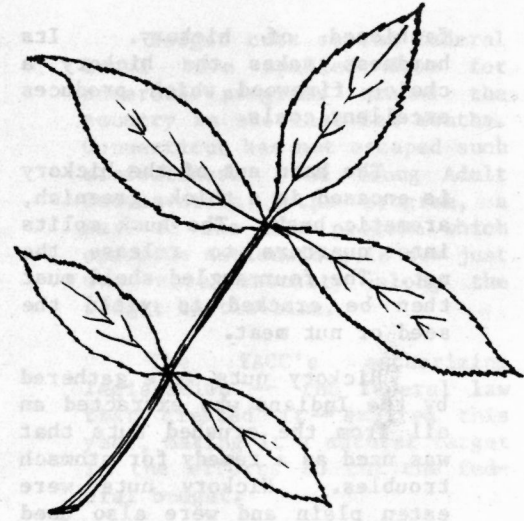
Perhaps the most important trees for wildlife species are the oaks. Oak trees of both the white and red groups can be found in Connecticut, and, in

fact, the white oak (Quercus alba) is the Connecticut State tree. Oaks produce acorns, a "nut" with a scaly cup. Acorns are as varied as the trees themselves, with each oak species producing its own distinctive fruit. Some acorns are long and slender with a shallow cup, others have a deep cup from which the nut barely protrudes.

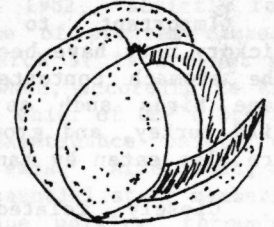
A typical acorn of the white oak is about three-quarters of an inch long, with up to one-third of its length enclosed in a warty cup. The white oak is a hardwood tree highly valued for its strength and durability. In these days of high fuel costs, it is also an important fuel wood. The wood from white oak has been used for a wide variety of purposes. In colonial times, it was widely used in the ship building and charcoal industries. Furniture, flooring, railroad ties, and barrel staves are other products of this wood.

The acorns of white oak were a staple of Indians and settlers alike, who boiled them first to make them less bitter. Acorns were then pounded into a meal and made into bread or used as porridge. They have also been used as feed for hogs, acorns being high in carbohydrates.

Acorns are often associated with squirrels, and this relationship is an important one. The acorns of the white oak sprout soon after leaving the tree in the autumn, and many of the sprouts are frozen. Squirrels burying acorns are responsible for the start of many future oak trees. Squirrels store acorns but often forget where a particular cache is located.



*hickory nut*



*Shagbark Hickory*  
(Carya ovata)

These small mammals are not the only ones to appreciate the "nuts" of the oak tree. The number of wildlife species which regularly consume acorns is impressive. In our area, the list includes the white-tailed deer, red fox, raccoon, opossum, eastern chipmunk, ruffed grouse, pheasant, and wood duck.

Another tree of our woods prized for its nuts as well as its wood is the hickory. As with the oaks, there are several hickories to be found in Connecticut, but perhaps the best known is the shagbark hickory (Carya ovata). This tree is well-named and easy to recognize. Its medium gray bark is shaggy, peeling off the tree in longitudinal strips. Hickory wood is famous for its use in axe handles. The wood is tough and is able to withstand sudden shocks. For this reason, the wheel spokes of early automobiles were

fashioned of hickory. Its hardness makes the hickory a choice firewood which produces excellent coals.

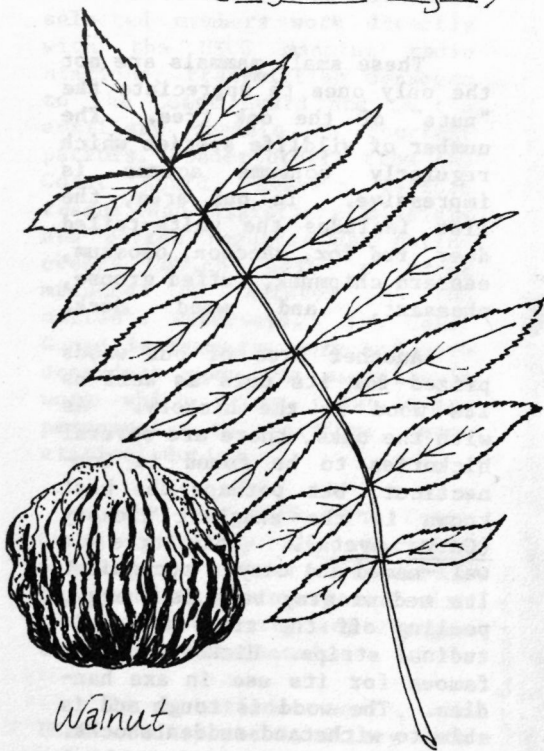
The hard nut of the hickory is encased in a thick, greenish, aromatic husk. The husk splits into quarters to release the nut. The four-angled shell must then be cracked to yield the seed or nut meat.

Hickory nuts were gathered by the Indians who extracted an oil from the crushed nuts that was used as a remedy for stomach troubles. Hickory nuts were eaten plain and were also used to flavor meat dishes. From pulverized nuts, a mild alcoholic beverage was made.

Important to wildlife, hickory nuts have been found in the stomach contents of large game birds such as pheasant, wild turkey, and grouse. They are also eaten by many mammals.

Closely related to the hickories are the walnuts. Both bitternut (Juglans cinerea) and black walnut (J. nigra) can be

Black Walnut  
(Juglans nigra)



found in Connecticut although they are not particularly common. In fact, black walnut has become quite scarce. It is a species whose wood is highly valued for furniture and cabinet-making and was once used to make the propellers of early airplanes.

The fruit of the black walnut is a large nut encased in a fleshy outer layer. This layer shrivels rather than splits when the seeds are ready for harvest. The fleshy husk was used in dye-making during colonial times.

Walnuts are a favorite of squirrels and mice and are also eaten by humans. The Indians made an oil from the nuts which was used for many purposes including anointing their heads.

The roots of walnut trees were apparently boiled by pioneers to make a mild cathartic. This is interesting as the roots seem to have an allelopathic relationship to other plants. Allelopathy, meaning "harmful to the other," is a term used to describe chemical inhibition by plants. Apple trees, tomato plants, and several other species are unable to survive near black walnuts.

An important mast tree in Connecticut forests is the American beech (Fagus grandifolia). Beeches are tolerant trees that can grow under heavier forest cover than many other hardwood species. The species has a smooth gray bark which unfortunately attracts initial carvers whose work permanently scars the trees. Beech wood, although not as high in quality as the oaks, hickories, and walnuts, is nonetheless used for furniture production, tool handles, shoe lasts, and veneer.

The fruits are small triangular nuts, about half an inch long, enclosed in a four-parted, spiny bur. Although edible, beech nuts are not widely used. In Europe, oil expressed from the nuts of a similar species is used in the production of lamp oil, soap, and an olive oil substitute.

The chief importance of beech nuts in the northeast is as wildlife food. They are eaten by squirrels, opossums, red and gray foxes, white-tailed deer, rabbits, grouse, and pheasants, to name a few.

No discussion of nut trees should end without mention of the American chestnut (Castanea dentata). Once among the largest and most important of the eastern hardwoods, chestnuts persist today only as sprouts from old stumps. In 1904, a disease, caused by the fungus (Endothia parasitica), reached the United States from Asia and virtually eliminated the chestnut tree from our woods. The fungus attacks the inner living bark. Although some chestnut sprouts have grown large enough to flower and produce fruits, blight-resistant strains have not yet developed.

In its day, the chestnut was prized for its lumber, which was used for furniture, flooring, and musical instruments. The sweet, edible nuts were marketed. In addition to humans, many wildlife species enjoyed the chestnut. It is hoped that in the future, the American chestnut will regain its stature as one of our major forest trees. ■

American beech  
(Fagus grandifolia)



# YACC casualty in budget battle

By Audrey Handelman, Environmental Intern



Audrey Handelman photo

Old railroad trestle at Gillette Castle State Park was restored by YACC, whose enrollees also improved footpath leading to it.

Budget cuts at the federal level have spelled doom for numerous programs around the country in the last few months. Connecticut has not escaped such misfortunes. The Young Adult Conservation Corps program, a part of the CETA program which operates nationwide, is now just one more casualty along the budget battle line.

The YACC's authorizing legislation -- the federal law that created it -- expired this year, making it a natural target in the efforts to cut the federal budget.

To pay for the last days of YACC, \$58 million of its fiscal 1981 budget was deferred to fiscal 1982, "strictly for the purpose of program closedown," and March 31 is now set as the date when, according to Richard Couch, Chief of DEP's Operations and Maintenance Unit, "everything ends." After that, only a few essential staff members will continue working, through June 30, to handle final reports, the disposition of property, and similar termination activities.

At the moment, it appears YACC has no future. However, Connecticut Congressman Toby Moffett, who is chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources for the House Committee on Government Operations, has been an active advocate of YACC, and he has promised to continue to fight for this or a similar program. Moffett has suggested tapping federal revenues from timber and oil sales to support such programs.

Meanwhile, because of its higher overhead as a residential camp, Camp Meshomasic in Portland will be the first phase of YACC to go. The camp is scheduled to close September 30, Couch said, with some layoffs of administrative and service employees of the program "inevitable."

The camp's crew supervisors will go to the State's other, non-residential YACC camps. And, Couch says, "We're trying to reassign the enrollees who have expressed an interest in

continuing to non-residential camps or to place them in industry." Couch expects about nine of the enrollees to be reassigned -- some of the others, he says, would not be able to arrange transportation to any of the other YACC camps. Some of the enrollees will complete their year with YACC before the camp's closedown.

What will be lost when the last of the 90 or so young people participating in the program statewide have either completed their year with YACC or the closedown date of March 31 arrives? In the last three years, YACC workers in Connecticut have helped build State Park facilities such as boardwalks and bath houses and have upgraded roads, bridges, and trails through State Parks and Forests. In addition, they have aided park staffs enormously with the day-to-day routine of caring for State lands. "The parks will really suffer," says Michael Guerrero of DEP's Operations and Maintenance Unit. "YACC has carried a large part of the load of daily maintenance -- I'm not sure there will be sufficient manpower when the program ends."

But perhaps the more significant loss will be to those individuals who might benefit from participating in the program. This is the feeling of Chuck Peterson, director of Camp Meshomasic, the State's only residential YACC camp. Twenty-four persons between the ages of 18 and 23 have lived year round at the camp, earning minimum wages for their eight hours of work each day and receiving room and board for three dollars a day.

"Our workers are the key to the whole program," says Peterson. "It's a mutually beneficial situation. The enrollees get experience, and the State gets a lot of work done." Although YACC was not designed to educate its workers in specific skills, enrollees often learn the basics of carpentry, masonry, or construction. "They learn a lot of things which can't be measured but which are just as valuable," Peterson

adds. "They learn self-discipline: they learn that there are parts to any job which aren't fun but which have to be done."

The YACC program has accepted persons between the ages of 16 and 23 who enjoyed working outdoors and who wanted to get experience in "hands on" kinds of work. "Enrollees could be people who had dropped out of high school or college, or people in college who decided they wanted a change or who were unsure of their career goals," Guerrero says. "We didn't accept people who dropped out of school just to join YACC, or people who just wanted a summer job."

Though YACC was not set up as a training program but purely and simply as a work program, helping its participants develop work habits and basic skills and giving them experience has been intended to make it possible to funnel them on into unsubsidized employment, either in private industry or government. In this, success rates have been good, Couch says: "positive terminations" -- those enrollees who have gone on to something else rather than just leaving the program -- have been running about 55 percent.

Couch adds, "We got more sophisticated in working with the Labor Department to help place them. We've taught them how to use Labor Department job banks and prepare resumes and take job interviews."

As of September 30, at least some of Camp Meshomasic's enrollees will need to take advantage of these skills. But they will have some interesting experience to bring to their job hunting efforts.

Camp Meshomasic's residents were divided into four crews, three of which were led by full-time State employees who acted as crew leaders. The fourth crew was led by Jeff MacDonald, a program enrollee who was given the job of crew leader because of his interest and ability. "We tried to establish 'incentive' jobs within each crew,"

Peterson says, "by making one position -- like assistant to the crew leader -- slightly higher paying and with more responsibility attached to it."

Last summer, Camp Meshomasic crews worked on a variety of different projects, including constructing new offices at DEP's Central Supply Depot, restoring an old railroad trestle to a usable bridge as part of a footpath in Gillette Castle State Park, and constructing a fishing access ramp for the handicapped at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Materials for YACC projects were purchased at as low a cost as possible. "We got to know where we could find materials inexpensively," Peterson says. For projects in which wood was needed, the State sawmill provided lumber.

Since much of YACC's work has supplemented work done by DEP Parks staff -- cutting brush and firewood, mowing grass, and cleaning park areas -- it is not as glamorous as work done by the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) whose high-school-age participants work only during the summer, usually on just one or two projects, and on a larger budget. YACC workers may have seen fewer self-contained projects through from start to finish than their counterparts in YCC, but their work has usually required more skill. Despite the hard work, the atmosphere among crew members was one of good-natured cooperation. Peterson feels that the satisfactions inherent in working for YACC for a year are lasting ones. "Even though workers may only have seen one or two projects through from start to finish in a year," he says, "the sense of accomplishment that comes from completing a job is something it's hard to find these days."

"There are a lot of things I like about the work," said one enrollee after a month at Camp Meshomasic. "I like working outdoors most of all. I've had a couple of jobs inside, and I felt hemmed in. It's great to be outside and also feel like I'm doing something worthwhile."



By Martina Delaney,  
Citizens' Participation Coordinator

# For Your Information

## CACIWC update

Since its reorganization, in 1978, to include Inland Wetland Commissions, the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions has grown in membership, working continuously to solidify the communication network between CACIWC, local Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, State agencies, and private environmental organizations and groups. The Association has sought to accomplish this through outreach programs, workshops, the Association's newsletter "The Habitat," news releases, regional meetings, and reports of important legal decisions.

CACIWC's goal is to encourage the wise use and management of our inland wetlands and open space lands and to educate Connecticut's citizens on this and other environmental issues through our Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions.

This past year has seen tremendous growth in the scope and momentum of the Association's work. CACIWC has made a commitment to work to reestablish disbanded conservation commissions, has established a priority list of important environmental issues facing Connecticut, has begun to organize "brainstorming sessions" to promote idea exchange between commissions, and has increased the flow of important, newsworthy information espe-

cially through "Legal Notes" which notify commissions about legal cases affecting inland wetlands regulations and related concerns.

The Board of Directors has worked hard this past year to clarify the Association's role in disseminating information for commissions as well as assisting commissions in problem solving and program development. It looks forward to a most productive 1981-82 year.

This past year also saw the hiring of the Association's first paid staff person -- Robin Bray. Robin, CACIWC's Program Coordinator, is responsible for organizing activities for the Association, the eight CACIWC regions, and individual commissions; preparing news releases and legal notes for distribution; editing "The Habitat" and assisting in workshops and outreach programs.

The 1980 CACIWC Annual Meeting was held in September at Harkness Memorial State Park in New London. Officers elected at this meeting were: Dag Pfeiffer, North Haven, vice-president, and Stanley Yonkauskis, Windsor, secretary. Tom ODell continued as CACIWC's president, this being his second term in this office, and Frederick Leavenworth, Woodbury, continued as treasurer.

This year's annual meeting will be held on October 29 at the Yankee Silversmith Inn in Wallingford and will begin with cocktails and dinner. The Board

of Directors is pleased to have three prominent speakers for this dinner meeting: Douglas M. Costle, Esq., Samuel M. Chambliss, Esq., and Gregory A. Sharp, Esq.

Our keynote speaker, Douglas Costle, former Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss the increasing responsibilities of the State and local governments in environmental enforcement in light of the new federal administration's policies.

Samuel Chambliss will discuss the authority of inland wetlands agencies under the Inland Wetland and Water Courses Act, including discussion of important Supreme Court cases. Gregory Sharp will discuss the importance of environmentalists involved with election politics.

Persons interested in attending should contact: Martina Delaney, DEP Information and Education Unit, 165 Capitol Avenue, State Office Building, Room 112, Hartford, CT (566-3489).

## Workshops

Workshops dealing with the management of inland wetlands and small woodlots are being offered this fall. The workshops will be held at the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Fairfield Center, and participants will take to the field to learn firsthand how to utilize techniques discussed during the indoor part of each program. The CAS Field Sanctuary and the Elsa R. Matzner Woodlot Management area will be made available for the workshops and will provide an opportunity to evaluate and discuss conservation and protection strategies in actual working situations.

Presentations will include a Friday evening introductory lecture followed by an all-day-Saturday session of "hands on" activity. Cost for each workshop is \$25 for CAS members, \$40 for non-members. Registra-

# CAM NEWS

## Hurricanes

One aspect of shoreline life that causes alarm is the sudden and dramatic fury of the sea brought about by severe storms and hurricanes. When such a coastal storm occurs, widespread destruction and occasional death can follow. In the past fifty years, the Connecticut shore has experienced no fewer than seven hurricanes, and scores of severe storms. (Hurricanes are severe storms with winds exceeding 64 knots.)

There is no way to predict when and where the next hurricane will slam into our shores. They form erratically, but always in the warmer months. Previous hurricanes have occurred September 21, 1938; September 14, 1944; August 31, 1954 (Carol); September 11, 1954 (Edna); August 12 and 19, 1955 (Connie and Diane); August 27, 1971 (Doria); and August 10, 1976 (Belle).

Perhaps the most destructive hurricane ever to hit Connecticut was the Hurricane of

1938, when as one source put it, "the Sound broke loose over the land, reducing civilization to a pile of splintered wood and wrecked buildings." As early as September 16, 1938, U.S. weather experts announced that a full-fledged hurricane had developed in the Caribbean. No one was particularly alarmed, because most tropical storms get blown out to open ocean. However, by the 20th, the storm began to curve northward. A North Atlantic high pressure center, located close to the shoreline, prevented the hurricane from moving northeasterly, out over the Atlantic and away from the American mainland. Meanwhile, another high pressure center was moving eastward across the U.S., leaving a narrow section of warm moist air pointing straight at New England. By the following day, the hurricane was rushing at 70 miles per hour, with gusts over 100 mph, up this atmospheric corridor toward the Connecticut shore.

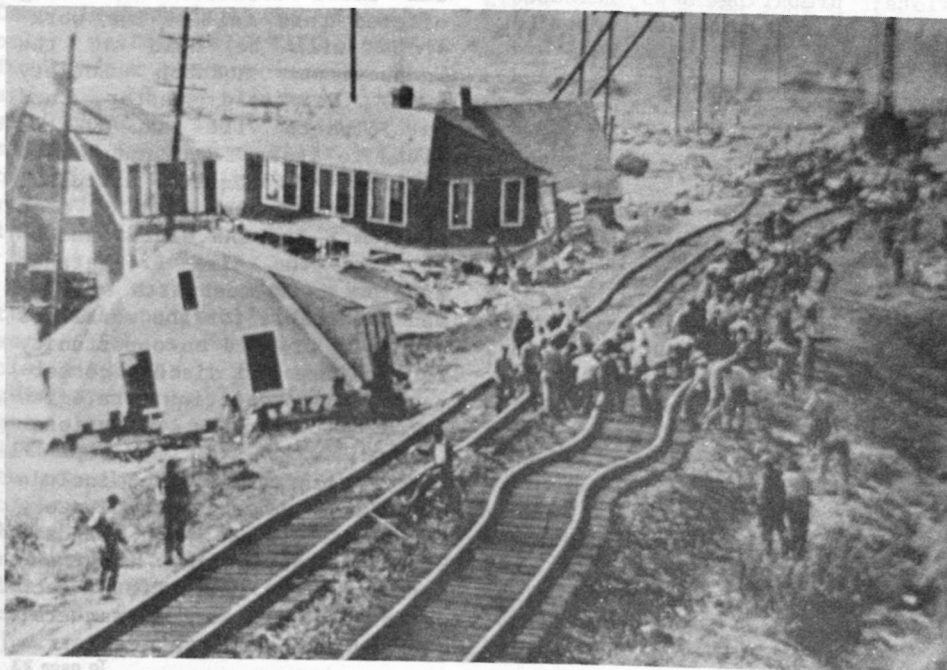
There were no accurate weather reports about the storm;

radar had yet to be invented, and ships in the Atlantic had moved out of its path. New Englanders were worrying about the unusually heavy rains of the past few days, which threatened to push the overburdened rivers to flooding. No one had the slightest inkling of the hurricane or its force until it was too late.

September 21 was a hot, extremely humid day. As the air pressure fell people remarked to one another that their ears felt funny. By one o'clock in the afternoon, the winds along the Connecticut shore had picked up to gale force. Within an hour, torrential rains began to fall. Soon after, a fast moving wall of water smashed against the shores of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The winds and water tore through houses and other buildings, pushed boats and small cottages many yards inland, twisted train tracks, and demolished nearly all the boats along the shore. Chunks of shoreline property were actually ripped away and washed out to sea by the hurricane's fury, altering the configuration of many parts of the coastline. The storm raised the Sound tides ten to seventeen feet above normal.

Since few, if any, residents knew of the approaching storm, most people went about their usual business, oblivious to the destruction that lay ahead. In the early afternoon, a New Haven passenger train, the "Bostonian," stopped as it was passing through Stonington. On the tracks ahead lay a house and a cabin cruiser, flung there from the Sound by the hurricane. The train's engineer uncoupled the engine from the rest of the cars and slowly pushed both the house and boat off the tracks, then hooked up to a single passenger car and dining car.

Since the tracks ahead were too weak to support the train, the passengers moved into the two cars and spent the night eating, drinking, and entertaining one another, cut off from the rest of the world. The track gradually twisted and buckled, causing the last two



Since winter waterfowl inventories began in Connecticut in 1952, Canada goose numbers have steadily increased. In the 1950s, the mean mid-winter count in Connecticut was 138; in the 1960s it was 358; and in the 1970s it was 2,543. This represents increases of 159 percent and 610 percent in the 60s and 70s respectively. The first two years of the 1980s have already shown a 24 percent increase.

Numbers of Canada geese in the entire Atlantic Flyway have also increased. In the 70s there were 51 percent more than in the 60s, and in 1981 we had the highest number ever counted at 955,000. The survey numbers do not represent a comprehensive count but the coverage is consistent. With other surveys and observations supporting the mid-winter survey data, the trend is not questioned.

There is no formal Canada goose breeding survey in Connecticut, but it is apparent that breeding geese have been increasing in proportion to the winter numbers. Each year, additional breeding Canada geese are observed on ponds and lakes throughout the State. The more traditional goose breeding sites on rivers and wildlife management areas reflect a small increase in recent years but do not account for the large population growth. Since most of the expanding breeding population is on lakes, reservoirs, and private ponds with adjacent lawns, it is apparent that geese have adapted to man's landscaping practices.

Canada geese seem to be moving into every location in the State with the right combination of water, cover, and mowed grass. The increase in this type of habitat, with

hundreds of new ponds and lake-side lawns since the 1950s, seems proportionate to the increased Canada goose population. Connecticut landowners have inadvertently done a superb job of managing Canada geese, that is, if you consider the increase an asset as opposed to a liability.

### Effects of increased Canada geese in Connecticut

In the 1960s, landowners were generally pleased about having a pair of Canada geese on their ponds, lakes, lawns, or golf courses. Complaints were rare. In the 1970s, however, the original pair was frequently replaced by a flock, and complaints about nuisance geese increased. The joy of having large "wild" birds close to homes and recreation areas was tarnished by the habits and necessities of these geese.

## Canada geese: calling them foul in Fairfield

*By Thomas Hoehn, DEP Wildlife Biologist*



Leonard Lee Rue III photo

*A pair of Canada geese generally please landowners. Several generations and a good-sized flock later, their joy may be tarnished.*

Geese were leaving their droppings and feathers on lawns, beaches, ponds, and even in swimming pools. Increasing numbers of Connecticut landowners were caused sanitation problems by the geese. Damage to landscapes and agricultural crops also began to rise. By 1975 the State was receiving more than 100 complaints a year involving nuisance geese. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Assistance Office, responded to 18 requests to remove goose flocks larger than ten birds in 1975. Since 1975 the requests for removal of nuisance geese have increased.

The nuisance goose "round up" in Connecticut has become an annual project involving about 12 State and federal biologists for several days each year during the molting period. The geese are captured by driving them into a corral trap when they are flightless. These efforts are only partially successful in removing nuisance geese, but 1,609 Canada geese have been moved by this method in six years.

Canada goose sport hunting success in Connecticut has not increased in proportion to goose population growth. In comparing five year averages, since 1969, Connecticut has had a 143 percent increase in harvest and a 188 percent increase in the winter goose population, while the entire Atlantic Flyway harvest has increased by 31

percent as its population increased by 21 percent. Regardless of the reliability of harvest surveys, it seems apparent that Connecticut is not harvesting its surplus geese. Urbanization in Connecticut has eliminated hunting access to much of the preferred fall Canada goose habitat, resulting in restricted harvest and relatively unchecked population growth. In addition, we suspect that urban goose populations suffer fewer natural predator losses than rural populations.

### Research and behavior

Without changes in Canada goose management, it is likely that they will continue to be a nuisance problem . . . an expensive liability. The trap and transfer method of removing problem geese is not reducing the number of nuisance goose problems. In 1980, research involving banding and collar marking of Canada geese in Connecticut and New York began as part of the effort to solve this management problem. The research is being funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with the Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and the states of New York and Connecticut. The investigator is Kathryn Converse, who is presently a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts. The following preliminary information has resulted from this study.

Of the 213 nuisance geese banded in Connecticut in 1980, 19 were recovered during the 1980-81 hunting season, four were recovered and released by a bander.

One hundred sixty-six of the banded geese also received gray plastic neck collars. All band recoveries were in Connecticut; all geese with collar markers were reported within 13 kilometers of the banding location. The banding and marking research will continue in 1981-82, but the early results support our premise that nuisance geese are non-migratory. Collar-marked observations support the contention that most Canada geese remain on private property inaccessible to hunters until harsh winter weather forces them to the coastal areas. Canada geese become abundant in January in many shoreline areas open to hunting.

We are hopeful that the research will be able to continue in spite of federal budget cuts so a better understanding of the Connecticut Canada goose population can be reached. A solution to the nuisance goose problem is becoming more essential since it is no longer restricted to Fairfield County. It is an unusual problem in wildlife management when a game bird becomes a nuisance animal. Practical management solutions and public understanding of our Canada goose population are necessary if we truly want them to be an asset in our wildlife community.

### COOPERATIVE FIELD TRIAL SCHEDULE (NON-SHOOTING) FALL 1981

| DATE           | CLUB                                   | AREA                                    |
|----------------|--|---|
| *Oct. 16,17,18 | 46th New England Futurity              | Flaherty F.T. Area-East Windsor         |
| Oct. 18        | Eastern Conn. Bird Dog Club            | Sugarbrook F.T. Area-Plainfield         |
| Oct. 24 & 25   | TarTan Gordon Setter Club              | Flaherty F.T. Area-East Windsor         |
| Oct. 25        | Conn. Amateur Shooting Dog Association | Sugarbrook F.T. Area-Plainfield         |
| *Oct. 25       | Nutmeg German Shorthaired Pointer Club | North Branford P.R. Area-North Branford |
| Oct. 25        | Nutmeg Weimaraner Club                 | Nod Brook Wildlife Mgmt. Area-Simsbury  |
| *Nov. 8        | Branford Gun Club                      | North Branford P.R. Area-North Branford |
| *Nov. 13,14,15 | Region #1 AA Championship              | Glastonbury Meadows-Glastonbury         |
| Nov. 14 & 15   | Irish Setter Club of C.C.              | Flaherty F.T. Area-East Windsor         |
| Nov. 21 & 22   | Nutmeg German Shorthaired Pointer Club | Flaherty F.T. Area-East Windsor         |

\* Trials utilizing pheasants -- all others will use bobwhite quail.

During its 1981 session the General Assembly passed 473 Public Acts and 74 Special Acts for a total of 547 bills. Of these, 532 have been signed into law by Governor William O'Neill, and he vetoed 15.

The following are 1981 acts of interest in the environmental area. A majority of these summaries were prepared by the Office of Legislative Research for its "Summary of 1981 Public Acts" or are excerpts from their summaries.

SA 81-22, HB 7132, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1982 - effective July 1, 1981.

This is the State's operating budget for fiscal year 1982. The act appropriates \$16,206,449 to the Department of Environmental Protection as follows:

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Central Office                 | \$ 3,563,409.        |
| Conservation<br>& Preservation | 10,177,281.          |
| Environmental<br>Quality       | 2,465,759.           |
|                                | <u>\$16,206,449.</u> |

PA 81-370, SB 1139, AN ACT INCREASING BONDING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - effective July 1, 1981.

Section 8 of this act increases the total bonding authorization for the State's water Pollution Control grants from \$325,000,000 to \$331,000,000.

#### Division of Conservation & Preservation

##### Fisheries

PA 81-175, SB 1232, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF SHELLFISH FOR TRANSPLANTING PURPOSES - effective October 1, 1981.

Allows commercial harvesters to take shellfish from permanently closed areas without regard to any law, ordinance or charter limiting quantity, provided the proper local

# It's the law

authority is notified of the times during which the harvesting would take place. Those other than commercial harvesters, and anyone harvesting in open or conditionally or temporarily closed areas, are still subject to local strictures.

PA 81-202, SB 615, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF OTTER TRAWLS IN CERTAIN WATERS OF THE STATE - effective upon passage.

Permits otter trawling closer to shore by moving the line which encompasses estuaries, shoals and protected waters between New York and Rhode Island closer to shore in several locations between Waterford and the Rhode Island border. In one or two places the line is moved approximately one-half mile, but in most cases the change is substantially less.

PA 81-269, HB 7220, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE - effective October 1, 1981.

Expands the definition of "agriculture" and "farming" as used throughout the statutes to include the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels and other molluscan shellfish. Introduces the term "aquaculture" into the statutes, in reference to farming on state waters and tidal wetlands and the production of protein food from molluscan shellfish on leased, franchised and public underwater farm lands.

##### Forestry

PA 81-354, SB 1319, AN ACT EXPANDING THE STATE'S FUELWOOD PROGRAM AND CONCERNING STATE FORESTERS AND FOREST RANGERS - effective July 1, 1981.

Sets a \$10 per cord charge for fuel wood cut from State lands under the cordwood program; puts the State Forester into the regular State Civil

Service; and changes the title forest ranger to state forest fire control personnel.

#### Law Enforcement

PA 81-227, HB 7348, AN ACT CONCERNING POWERS OF CONSERVATION OFFICERS - effective October 1, 1981.

Expands the powers of conservation officers, special conservation officers, and patrolmen appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, allowing them to enforce laws in areas that include: motor vehicles, including registration, licenses, and equipment, and highway use; permits to carry a pistol; weapons in vehicles; outboard motors with defaced motor numbers; bribery; interfering with or failure to assist a peace officer; assault on a peace officer; interference with a search and destruction of property to prevent a search. The act gives such officers the same search warrant authority as regular police officers.

#### Parks and Recreation

PA 81-344, SB 318, AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPING PERMIT FEES IN STATE PARKS - effective October 1, 1981.

A law enacted last year increased camping fees at state campgrounds by at least 150 percent of the amount in effect on April 1, 1980, for residents, and 200 percent for non-residents. This act eliminates the differential for non-residents and mandates an increase of 175 percent for all camping fees over the April 1, 1980, fee no later than April 1, 1982.

#### Wildlife

PA 81-103, SB 1230, AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER THE TAKING OF WILDLIFE - effective October 1, 1981.

Expands the Commissioner of Environmental Protection's regulatory power over wildlife from hunting for game birds and wild quadrupeds to the taking of

all species of wildlife, thus allowing the Commissioner to regulate non-game species of wildlife.

PA 81-115, SB 1286, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES - effective upon passage.

Alters the procedures under which license agents purchase hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses for issuance to members of the public.

PA 81-298, SB 1229, AN ACT CONCERNING COURSES OF INSTRUCTION IN TRAPPING, HUNTING AND ARCHERY - effective July 1, 1981.

Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to develop courses in safe archery and trapping practices. Prohibits persons under the age of 16 from trapping without a license and allows persons between the ages of 12 and 16 to hunt with a bow and arrow in the company of a licensed adult. Individuals under 16 participating in either of these activities must have completed the appropriate safety instruction course.

The act requires that the existing hunting safety course and the new archery course be offered free of charge. In addition, the act allows the charging of individuals taking the trapping course a reasonable fee, established by regulation, to cover supplies, materials, and equipment.

#### Indian Affairs

PA 81-242, HB 7273, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF INDIAN BURIAL SITES - effective June 1, 1981.

Authorizes the Indian Affairs Council to inventory State-owned land that may contain Indian burial sites and requires State agencies to notify the Council or the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection of the discovery of Indian remains and to allow 21 days for their removal and reinterment.

PA-81-375, HB 7272, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT INDIANS - effective July 1, 1981.

Changed the names of Connecticut's Indian tribes to correspond to their historically accurate names and established a new 118 acre reservation in Colchester for the Golden Hill Paugussett tribe.

### Division of Environmental Quality

#### Air Compliance

PA 81-385, SB 1455, AN ACT CONCERNING AIR COMPLIANCE TESTING FEES - effective upon passage.

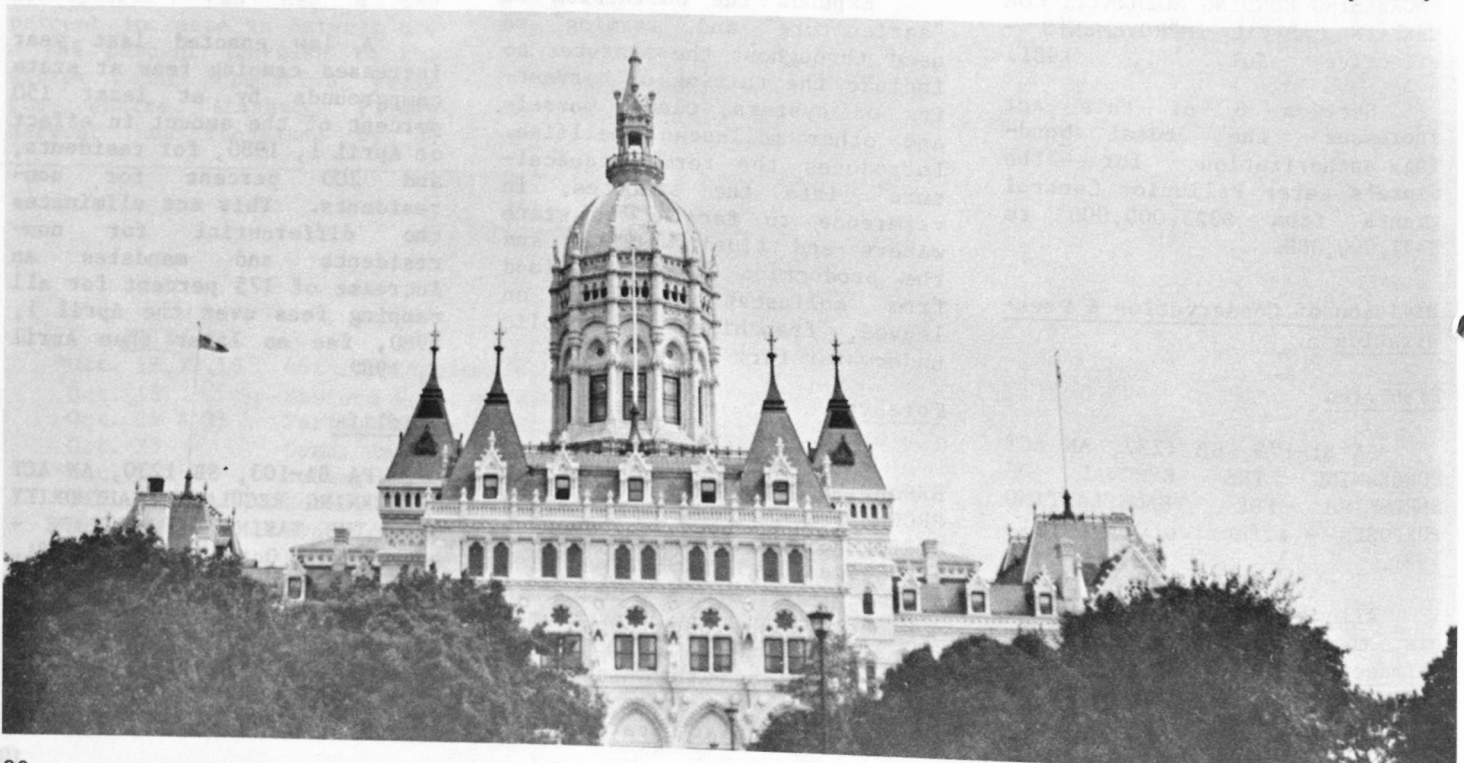
Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to establish regulations for charging a fee for tracer dust tests on industrial bag houses.

#### Hazardous Waste Management

PA 81-433, SB 484, AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE STATUTES -- effective July 1, 1981, except section on municipal resource recovery takes effect from passage.

This act establishes both civil and criminal penalties for violation of the state's hazardous waste statutes and program adopted under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

It also deletes the requirement that violations of the state's water pollution laws be wilful or negligent and makes all violations, whether or not they are wilful or negligent, subject to a civil penalty.



Audrey Handelman photo

PA 81-369, HB 7277, AN ACT CONCERNING SITING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES - effective July 1, 1981.

This bill would change the name of the Power Facilities Evaluation Council (PFEC) to Connecticut Siting Council and add hazardous waste siting to its jurisdiction. The membership of the Council for both hazardous waste and power facilities would be the same except that for hazardous waste facilities, the Commissioners of Public Safety and Health Services would be substituted for the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Chairman of the Public Utilities Control Authority and four local ad hoc members would be added, three of the four being electors from the municipality in which the proposed facility is to be located and the fourth representing the neighboring municipality likely to be most affected by the proposed facility.

The bill also makes extensive changes in the hazardous waste siting process established by PA 80-472, including major changes in financial responsibility requirements, local participation procedures, and decision-making criteria.

The bill exempts all existing generator-owned facilities and requires approval for all new generator-owned facilities including adjacent landfill facilities which are exempted under current law. Also excluded from Council jurisdiction by this bill are approved municipal landfills; existing facilities whose primary business is hazardous waste; and businesses not primarily engaged in hazardous waste disposal which treat or recover hazardous waste on site as an integral part of an industrial process.

PA 81-221, HB 5595, AN ACT CONCERNING STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTES - effective upon passage.

This act requires applications for permits to store or dispose of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) that were

pending at the passage of the act or filed prior to July 1, 1981, be acted on by the hazardous waste siting board and not the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

This act also prohibits storage or disposal of PCBs for a fee except for amounts stored or disposed of in the normal operation of a facility, until regulations are adopted by the Commissioner and such regulations are exempted from preemption under federal law. Upon establishment of exempted regulations, PCBs may only be stored or disposed of in accordance with a certificate of public safety and necessity issued by the siting board.

PA 81-336, SB 714, AN ACT EXEMPTING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT DISPOSAL FACILITY FROM CERTIFICATION FOR A HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY - effective July 1, 1981.

This act exempts a hazardous waste facility on the University of Connecticut's main campus from going through the hazardous waste siting process established by statute. Waste disposed of at this facility could only come from laboratories operated by the University of Connecticut, other educational institutions in the state, or state agencies.

#### Solid Waste Management

PA 81-127, SB 633, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BURNING OF CLEAN BRUSH AT LAND FILL LOCATIONS - effective July 1, 1981.

This act requires that, subject to certain conditions, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection must allow municipalities to burn brush in their landfills up to three times per calendar year. The local fire marshal is required to submit a permit application, with the approval of the local chief elected official, to the Commissioner of DEP who must act on the application within a reasonable time and in accordance with state open burning regulations. Permits may not be issued for burning leaves,

demolition waste, or other solid waste, or in municipalities known as "hot spots," where monitored air pollution levels are so high that no burning is allowed by local permit.

PA 81-179, HB 5701, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL AND REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS - effective October 1, 1981.

Requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to prepare a state solid waste management plan to be updated biennially and repeals the requirement that such plans be established for each planning region of the state without any update requirement. The Solid Waste Management Advisory Council is required to review and comment on the plan prior to adoption.

The act also eliminates the requirement that municipalities submit solid waste management plans, except where the Commissioner determines that a municipal landfill is to be closed within five years of October 1, 1981. Any such plan would be required to include provisions for source separation.

PA 81-213, HB 6479, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITIES - effective May 28, 1981.

Gives municipalities the legal authority to establish municipal resource recovery authorities similar to the statewide Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority.

PA 81-313, SB 1302, AN ACT CONCERNING RAISING THE BONDING LIMIT OF THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY - effective October 1, 1981.

This act raises the limit on the amount of bonds that the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority may have outstanding from \$250 million to \$400 million.

#### Radiation Compliance

PA 81-309, SB 1452, AN ACT INCREASING REGISTRATION FEES FOR

DEVICES EMITTING X-RAYS - effective July 1, 1981.

Increases registration fees for X-ray devices from \$15 to \$30 biennially.

#### Water Resources

PA 81-125, SB 637, AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR INLAND WETLAND VIOLATIONS - effective October 1, 1981.

This act specifies that the Superior Court has the authority to impose the fines which are contained in the Inland Wetlands statutes. The act also makes several technical changes in these statutes.

PA 81-136, HB 7328, AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL WATERSHED AND FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS - effective October 1, 1981.

This act makes several changes in the procedure followed when a town applies, through the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Soil Conservation Service Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project Grant.

PA 81-143, SB 1306, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL GRANTS - effective October 1, 1981.

This act specifies that state grants to municipalities for the design of water pollution abatement facilities and sewers shall not be made unless the municipality has authorized the local share of the design and construction financing. The act applies to all work initiated after October 1, 1981.

PA 81-176, SB 1336, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTING NEW DISCHARGES TO THE WATERS OF THE STATE - effective October 1, 1981.

This act replaces a requirement that the Department of Environmental Protection hold public hearings before granting most water discharge permits and

allows them to be granted following public notice and an opportunity for written comment.

The act requires that water discharge permits comply with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and that any hearings required by that act be held.

Finally, the act allows the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to issue orders to abate pollution for discharges initiated after 1967 (private) or 1973 (municipal), in addition to his authority to bring court action through the Attorney General's Office against such violations.

#### Miscellaneous

PA 81-177, SB 317, AN ACT CONCERNING STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - effective October 1, 1981.

This act requires environmental impact evaluations where state actions have a major impact on historic structures and landmarks. The act also adds the Connecticut Historical Commission as one of the agencies to which evaluations must be submitted for comment and review.

The law requires that a hearing be held on an environmental impact evaluation if the agency preparing the evaluation is petitioned by 25 persons or an association with at least 25 members. This act institutes the same requirement for a finding of no significant impact.

PA 81-3, HB 5279, AN ACT REPEALING THE ANNUAL LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING FUND ASSESSMENT - effective upon passage.

Repealed sections of the General Statutes which set up the Litter Control tax.

PA 81-239, HB 5017, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING PROGRAM - effective upon passage.

Eliminates certain duties of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection which would

have been funded under the litter tax repealed by PA 81-3. These duties are establishment of litter receptacle design and placement of such receptacles at public places; production and distribution of litter bags; and establishment of regulations requiring owners and operators of public places to maintain litter receptacles.

PA 81-311, SB 1335, AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT LAW - effective October 1, 1981.

Makes persons who violate Connecticut's beverage container deposit law ("Bottle Bill") subject to a fine of from \$50 to \$100 for a first offense, from \$100 to \$200 for a second offense, and from \$250 to \$500 for a third offense.

PA 81-401, SB 589, AN ACT CONCERNING SCENIC ROADS - effective July 1, 1981.

Allows towns to designate certain highways or portions of highways as scenic roads and regulate future alterations or improvements to these roads. Such scenic road designation must receive the written approval of the owners of a majority of the lot frontage abutting the road.

PA 81-323, HB 5719, AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTION FROM SALES TAX FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING BOATS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT - effective July 1, 1981.

Provides exemption from sales tax for fishing boats and equipment for commercial fishing if the buyer can demonstrate that not less than 50 percent of his income is derived from commercial fishing.

PA 81-423, SB 430, AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL OF PROPERTY TAX ON BOATS AND AN INCREASE OF BOAT REGISTRATION FEES - effective July 1, 1981.

Removes boats from the property tax list of towns and increases boat registration fees as well as making major changes in the funding of the boating fund.

## Dog Trials From page 8

activity. Besides spending a couple of months on the road touring and putting time into Frank's training, he spends most mornings when he's at home at Flaherty Field working on improvements to the nearly 300 acre area.

Flaherty Field Trial Area, Cowles thinks, is unique in being the only such area in the country that's administered as a cooperative venture by the DEP and the field trial people. The Flaherty Management Committee, established in 1958, includes a delegate from each of nine participating clubs and one from the DEP. The committee built the area's clubhouse and has defrayed the costs of various improvements. The profit from their summer "Fun Field Weekend" will go to further ground improvements.

Dog trials have taken Cowles further afield than the southern United States. Back in 1964, he selected an English setter for a friend in Hawaii, where buying a dog was something of a project because of six-month quarantine requirement for imported animals. The setter, Cowles says, "wasn't a world-beater, but in Hawaii she won everything in sight." Soon he was selecting dogs for other friends and friends of friends in Hawaii, and his contacts eventually led to four separate trips to Hawaii to judge dog trials.

And Hawaii isn't the farthest he's gone. Cowles has been writing field trial accounts for "American Field" magazine for 30 years or so. These led to his being invited to contribute to a Japanese magazine on sporting dogs called "Zenyaku." The six-issue serialization of the article he wrote, which appeared in Japanese, resulted in his being invited, in 1977, to judge an invitational meet at Mount Fuyiyama that included Japan's top dogs.

Want to learn more? The Wildlife Unit recommends a book called "Hunting Dogs," published

by the Conservation Department, Winchester Group, Olin, East Alton, IL 62023. Written by John Madson, it's available for 50 cents, postage paid. ■

## Hurricanes From page 16

coaches to flip over on their sides close to the flood waters. Miraculously, no one was killed.

Other parts of the state did not fare as well as those train passengers. In all, 85 persons died as a direct result of the storm, and state property loss totalled \$100 million. The entire coastline was affected -- Fairfield County reported damages of \$1 million and more. The eastern part of the coast, lacking the buffer of Long Island, suffered greater losses. In the six-town area comprising Westbrook, Madison, Guilford, Branford, Old Saybrook, and Lyme damages totalled more than \$7 million. New London was hit full force: in addition to boats and buildings being destroyed, a fire caused by the storm destroyed about \$4 million worth of property.

The hurricane didn't stop at the coastline but moved up into the interior of Connecticut, through Middletown and Hartford, and up through northern New England before petering out around Montreal. ■

## FYI From page 15

tion is required. The dates are:

Inland Wetlands - October 23 & 24

This workshop is designed for members of inland wetlands agencies, conservation commissions, planning boards and for professional consultants and developers looking for a better understanding of inland wetland values and functions and the regulatory process that determines use.

Managing A Small Woodlot - November 13 & 14

Owners of small woodlots -- one to 50 acres or more -- will learn how to manage their trees as well as about protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. Topics will include boundary delineation, systematic sampling, selecting and marking trees for harvest, estimating yields, and preparing a management plan.

For more information about the workshops, call 259-6305. ■

## Public Hearings

October 27, 1981; 10 a.m.  
Rm. 221, State Office Bldg., Hartford

To consider the application of Louis and John D'Amato to maintain and install fill over approximately 2.5 acres of inland wetlands in Milford for the purpose of preparing 13 lots for industrial development. Sites are located in the Old Settlers' Industrial Park.

October 29, 1981; 7 p.m.  
Franklin Town Hall, Meeting House Hill Rd., Franklin  
To consider the application of Hidden Acres Partnership to construct and operate a high-rise deep-pit caged poultry operation of 160,000 birds which would create a discharge to the ground waters in the Beaver Brook watershed in Franklin.

October 30, 1981; 1 p.m.  
Rm. 221, State Office Bldg., Hartford  
To consider the application of Rocky River Properties to relocate approximately 250 feet of the Rocky River on the gravel excavation site on the property on the west side of Conn. Rt. 7 in the Town of New Milford. ■

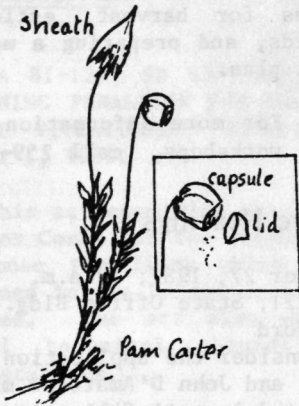
## Events

October 25, 1981; 1:30-4 p.m.  
American Indian Archaeological Institute, Rt. 199, Washington  
AIAI will hold "Indian Artifact and Ethnographic Identification Day." For \$3 per item Indian objects will be identified by AIAI Director of Research Dr. Roger Moeller and AIAI Collections Mgr. Ann McMullen. Proceeds will benefit research department. Call 868-0518 for information. ■

## *Trailside Botanizing*

by G. Winston Carter

**Haircap Moss**  
***Polytrichum commune***



Haircap moss, sometimes called star or pigeon wheat moss, is the most common type of moss to be found in this region. The term haircap comes from the protective sheaths that cover the spore cases which are held on erect, thread-like stalks found rising from the green moss mat. This moss is prevalent in woods or in relatively infertile places. It may extend in clear stands for many yards. Interestingly, these plants have been used as a cheap stuffing for pillows and upholstery.

Many people tend, incorrectly, to think of any small or inconspicuous plant found underfoot, on rocks, or under water as a "moss." "Spanish moss," for example, is related to the pineapple family, and

"reindeer moss" is really a lichen.

True mosses do not have stems, leaves, roots, or specialized tissues for conducting water, but they have hair-like structures which are like roots and absorb some water.

Mosses are of great importance in holding moisture and building and maintaining soil, but perhaps their greatest role is in the development of stable plant communities. They usually replace lichens and appear before herbs in the gradual succession of plant types. In spite of their inconspicuousness, mosses play a dynamic role in nature.

# DEP Citizens' Bulletin

State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection  
State Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06115

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